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Borough of Dartford

ANNUAL REPORT

ON CERTAIN MATTERS CONCERNING

PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955





SUMMARY

Owing to the limited scope for expansion of the Borough the increase in population in 1955 as in former years expressed itself by "overspill" rather than by increase of the formal population figure. For the same reason the number of births was similar to that of previous years.

As in former years all social classes appear to have contributed their due proportion of births to the young population of the Borough.

The mortality experienced in 1955 was that to be expected from an urban area of S. E. England well provided with health services.

There was a visit of influenza and a routine visit of measles in the first quarter.

The number of children immunised against diphtheria and vaccinated against smallpox was less than in former years and there was no revaccination of school children.

The houses built in the Borough by private enterprise was the greatest of all post war years. The numbers of applicants on the Council's waiting list dropped by 300. There were 77 houses unfit for human habitation demolished or closed.

The drinking water and food remained wholesome.

Measurements of air pollution continued.

About 1,300 inspections of food preparation premises were made.

BIRTHS. Births were up by two on the previous year and the adjusted birth rate thereby remained unaltered at 13.7. The trend since 1948 has been as follows:-

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Births	722	656	594	562	533	591	579	581
Birth rate, Dartford	18.1	16.2	14.0	13.4	12.8	14.0	13.7	13.7
Birth rate, England and Wales	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0

As mentioned above, the fact that in the years 1954 and 1955 102 houses have been built by the Borough outside its boundary means that a sizeable slice of fertility has been presented to Dartford Rural District, and that the urge for reproduction has expressed itself more copiously than our birth rate implies.

Births by Social Class 1955. The Registrar General has again kindly classified for us 572 out of the 581 births:-

Social Class	Legitimate births by social class of father	Illegitimate births by social class of mother	Total	Percentage	
				1955	1954
I	22	-	22	4%	7%
II	63	1	64	11%	14%
III	345	9	354	63%	52%
IV	68	3	71	12%	12%
V	55	1	56	10%	15%
	553	14	567	100%	100%
Not stated	1	4	5		
	554	18	572		

Place of birth. 474 of the above 572 births took place in hospital, i.e. 83%, compared with 82% for 1954.

DEATHS. Prior to 1953 the only deaths in Bexley Hospital allotted to Dartford were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In 1952 there were 17 so allotted. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients there were attributed to Dartford, the allocations increasing from 17 in 1952 to 128, 141 and 158 in 1953, 1954 and 1955 respectively. This large increase, which is not allowed for in the comparability factor, will have to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the town population. The latter will be taken as the total deaths less those of the mental hospitals plus 17. I apologise for this contortion:-

	1st	2nd	Quarters		Year
			3rd	4th	
Deaths - Dartford Borough 1955	172	127	120	139	558
Less Mental Hospital deaths	45	37	36	40	158
... Town deaths	127	90	84	99	400
Add	5	4	4	4	17
Dartford deaths by pre-1953 methods	132	94	88	103	417

Hence the annual and quarterly deaths and death rates as calculated by the pre-1953

method, including adjustment of death rates by comparability factor, are -

Annual Deaths:

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths	390	372	421	455	368	417
Death rate - Dartford Town	9.9	8.5	10.7	11.3	8.9	10.1
Death rate - England & Wales	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7

Quarterly Deaths:

Dartford Town -	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Year
1950	122	81	89	98	390
1951	134	80	64	94	372
1952	115	88	88	130	421
1953	173	92	86	104	455
1954	100	87	72	109	368
1955	132	94	88	103	417

Quarterly Death Rates:

Dartford Town -

1950	12.3	8.2	9.0	9.0	9.9
1951	13.6	8.2	6.5	9.6	9.5
1952	11.7	9.0	9.0	13.2	10.7
1953	17.1	9.1	8.5	10.3	11.3
1954	9.7	8.4	6.9	10.6	8.9
1955	12.8	9.1	8.5	10.0	10.1

England and Wales -

1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.3
1953	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4
1954	14.0	10.6	9.3	11.4	11.3
1955	15.4	11.2	9.1	11.1	11.7

Town Deaths by Social Class

	Males	Females	Total	% 1955	% 1954	% 1953	% 1952
Class I	6	7	13	3	2	2	2
Class II	31	25	56	14	14	16	18
Class III	109	92	201	51	50	50	44
Class IV	33	39	72	18	16	13	13
Class V	37	16	53	13	17	17	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unclassified	216	179	395	99	99	98	98
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	217	183	400	100	100	100	100

Excluding Bexley Mental Hospital the deaths in hospital and at home were:-

	All ages		75 and over	
	Hospital	Home	Hospital	Home
1951	174	199	51	87
1952	220	201	72	92
1953	227	211	80	123
1954	210	141*	88	59
1955	222	178	78	82#

* Including 3 elsewhere

Including 2 in residential accommodation and one found drowned

By former methods of compilation our town deaths have been -

	All Ages	Aged 75 +
1953 (Influenza A)	455	203
1954 (Normal year)	368	147
1955 (Influenza B)	417	157

Causes of Death. The causes of death in the town may be summarised:-

	1953	1954	1955	Eng. and Wales
All causes of death	438 (100%)	351 (100%)	400 (100%)	100%
Main causes of death	359 (82%)	283 (81%)	329 (82%)	80%
Other causes of death	79 (18%)	68 (19%)	71 (18%)	20%
Main causes of death				
(440-468 diseases of circulatory system	154 (35%)	135 (38%)	153 (38%)	37%
(140-205 cancer including Hodgkins disease, Leukaemia and aleukaemia	57 (13%)	74 (21%)	82 (20%)	18%
(330-334 Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	65 (15%)	44 (13%)	43 (11%)	14%
(470-527 Diseases of respiratory system	83 (19%)	30 (9%)	51 (13%)	11%

Cancer of the Lung. This caused 15 town deaths in 1955, there were 10 in 1954. The rates were 0.37 per 1000 population for Dartford Town, 0.37 for the six millions living in the smaller towns of England and Wales, 0.45 for the twenty three millions in the greater towns of England and Wales, 0.39 in the whole of England and Wales and 0.57 in London.

Coronary Disease. This caused 71 town deaths in 1955 compared with 54 in 1954. The rate was 1.86 compared with 1.59 for England and Wales and 1.57 for London.

Disease of the Respiratory System

Dartford Town	Deaths in Year	
	Bexley	Mental Hospital
1953	83	29
1954	30	28
1955	51	36

Town Deaths in first quarter

Respiratory Disease All causes (compiled by pre-1953 methods.)

1950	14	122
1951 Influenza A	30	134
1952	21	115
1953 Influenza A	64	173
1954	13	100
1955 Influenza B	19	132

Deaths Relating to Welfare of Mothers and Infants There were no deaths from pregnancy or childbirth. Stillbirths numbered 12 compared with 15 in 1954. The stillbirth rate was 20 compared with 23.2 for England and Wales and 20.2 for London.

Deaths under four weeks of age numbered 8 compared with 7 in 1954 and with one exception all these occurred within 2 days of birth. Deaths between the ages of four weeks and one year numbered 4, none of which was due to an infectious condition. 5 deaths within 2 days of birth were due to prematurity. The remaining 7 deaths at ages up to 7 months were due to congenital malformation.

Deaths of those aged 75 years and over. As mentioned in my previous report, the lungs of those aged 75 years and over are worth watching and the following table concludes with a comparison of the aged respiratory mortality in the town with that in the warm sheltered environment of Bexley Mental Hospital. -

	Town Deaths aged 75 years and over							
	1st Quarters	2nd	3rd	4th	1955	1954	1953	
All Causes	45	46	31	35	157 (100%)	147 (100%)	203 (100%)	
Main causes	42	42	28	30	142 (90%)	130 (88%)	185 (92%)	
Other causes	3	4	3	5	15 (10%)	17 (12%)	17 (8%)	
(440-468) Diseases of circulatory system	21	20	13	13	67 (43%)	68 (46%)	83 (41%)	
(140-205) Cancer	3	6	5	4	18 (11%)	18 (12%)	16 (8%)	
(330-334) Vascular lesions of C.N.S.	8	5	6	6	25 (16%)	27 (18%)	34 (17%)	
(470-527) Diseases of respiratory system	10	11	4	7	32 (20%)	17 (12%)	52 (26%)	

Town

Aged respiratory mortality 1953 (influenza A)	26%
Aged respiratory mortality 1954 (normal year)	12%
Aged respiratory mortality 1955 (influenza B)	20%

Bexley Mental Hospital

Aged respiratory mortality 1953 (influenza A)	26%
Aged respiratory mortality 1954 (normal year)	16%
Aged respiratory mortality 1955 (influenza B)	25%

MEASLES. As mentioned in the previous report our two yearly measles cycle in 1954-55 season was about 3 months behind schedule. This resulted in no cases being notified in 1954 but a record high figure of 1,008 being recorded in 1955. -

	November	December	January	February	March	April
1949-50	-	-	-	-	-	1
1950-51	138	288	161	58	44	20
1951-52	-	-	-	-	-	-
1952-53	154	238	255	77	88	17
1953-54	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954-55	-	-	6	43	284	473
1955-56	-	-	-	-	-	1

POLIOMYELITIS. There were 4 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic cases. One of the four a 12 year old boy, died four days after the onset of the first symptoms. All 3 non-paralytic cases and 1 paralytic came from Temple Hill Estate.

FOOD POISONING. All three food poisoning notifications referred to infestations with the tape worm (*T. saginata*.) One case had first known of the presence of his parasite 15 months previously and another several years previously when abroad.

DYSENTERY. Of four cases notified only one showed the presence of dysentery organisms (*Shigella sonnei*) on submitting stool specimens after treatment. This case served food at a canteen. She submitted to further treatment and provided two negative specimens from her husband and ten from herself spaced over a period of a month before being released from surveillance.

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. The numbers of new cases notified in recent years have been as follows:-

			Bexley Mental Hospital
	Town		
1950	68	Transferred out
1951	35	Transferred out
1952	68	Transferred out
1953	28	16
1954	44	15
1955	37	7

The numbers on the register have for the first time decreased. Removals from the register follow at times a review of the clinic register, and perhaps the reduction is more of an administrative phenomenon than a lessening of the number of cases.

Number on register December 31st, 1950	-	462
Number on register December 31st, 1951	-	471
Number on register December 31st, 1952	-	532
Number on register December 31st, 1953	-	553
Number on register December 31st, 1954	-	599
Number on register December 31st, 1955	-	541

The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis were:-

	1953	1954	1955
Town	6	6	5
Bexley Mental Hospital	6	5	2

Of the 5 town deaths 2 were not notified in life. One of these two unnotified cases was already known and his contacts were under observation. The other unnotified case was only found to have suffered from tuberculosis by post mortem examination following sudden death from coughing up blood; he had been under observation for other conditions. At least one case was removed from the register by death from causes other than tuberculosis, in this case coronary thrombosis. There were 2 deaths classified to causes other than tuberculosis which mentioned tuberculosis as a contributory cause.

Mass X-Ray. The unit visited the town in July and August. It will be seen from the table that the percentage of tuberculosis found, 0.32, harmonised with the falling trend of recent years and is in keeping with the percentage of 0.33 found tuberculous in

fifteen million persons X-rayed in England and Wales. As was to be expected the visit of the Mass X-ray unit exposed in addition diseases other than tuberculosis. These were - Bronchial carcinoma - 2 bronchiectasis - 1 sarcoidosis - 2 pneumonitis - 1 diaphragmatic palsy - 2 enlarged mediastinal glands - 1 cardiovascular lesions - 6

Contact Examination. In 1955 examination of 717 contacts at the Chest Clinic, which like Mass X-Ray covers a large area centred on Dartford, revealed 16 new cases of tuberculosis, i.e. about 2 2% - a figure similar to that of Kent and of England and Wales. It will be noted that although the figure is small it is 7 times that of the figure for the general community as revealed by Mass X-ray.

Re-Housing. During 1955 the following suggestions were made regarding priority for housing applicants who gave tuberculosis as a reason:-

Points	0	1 to 4	5 to 8
No. of recommendations	8	9	3

The following applicants awarded priority for tuberculosis in any year were rehoused by the Council in 1955:-

Points	1 to 4	5 to 8
No. rehoused	6	3

When a tuberculous person moves house we try to get the vacated house disinfected before the incoming family go in. The number of houses disinfected in this way in 1955 was 29.

In the complexities of tuberculosis I sometimes wonder if the need for rehousing on grounds of tuberculosis is not in general over emphasised. It is of course a serious infectious disease whose incidence expresses the balance between susceptibility and immunity but when family contacts have been exposed to infection over a long period, is not rehousing too late to be effective? We have seen that contacts reveal much more tuberculosis than the general community but even so the figure 2% is not large. The source of infection is often outside the home - the old infectious cougher amongst the public who we can do little to check.

Apathy. An infant included in the above notifications was with parents living at the house of the infant's grandfather. The latter was a known chronic infectious case and on these grounds relatives had been rehoused by the Council from that house the previous year. Subsequently the infant and his parents were accommodated at the address unknown to the Council and the infection of the infant followed.

A young woman admitted to hospital in London for observation was confirmed as a case of respiratory tuberculosis following operation. Examination of contacts was delayed owing to omission of notification until, finally, inquiries were directed to the hospital. It was not possible to give due emphasis on the duty of notification in view of the ambiguity of the regulations.

The circumstances of the above two cases become known only by chance; they illustrate the unseen influences which maintain the spread of the disease.

NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. Of the six cases notified four involved the coverings of the brain and spinal cord (meninges).

ATTEMPT AT A FORECAST In recent years influenza and measles have tended to follow a two yearly cycle.

Virus A influenza has tended to arrive in January or February of alternate years following its appearance in South Africa several months before or on the continent of Europe several weeks before. In Dartford this background together with evidence of the presence of Virus A locally enabled a presumption to be made in December 1952 of the outbreak in February 1953. In June 1954 influenza occurred in South Africa and on two Union Castle ships on their voyage from South Africa to the United Kingdom. Two passengers from the ship arrived in this district and although their blood showed no evidence of Virus A infection such evidence was provided by passengers arriving elsewhere in this country.

Measles arrives here on similar alternate years to Virus A influenza. It usually arrives in Dartford Borough in time to celebrate every other bonfire night and is on the way out by the following Easter.

In view of these facts the following letter was sent on July 7th, 1954, to Medical Practitioners in Dartford Borough and Rural District:-

"I am taking the liberty to remind you of some facts which may be of use in planning for the coming winter.

Since 1949 epidemics of influenza in England and Wales have been due to Virus A and have assumed a two yearly cycle. All three epidemics have been preceded by outbreaks in other parts of the world. The 1949 epidemic originated in Sardinia. The 1951 and 1953 epidemics came from South Africa and the Continent.

This two yearly cycle entitles us to expect an epidemic of influenza this coming winter, i.e. in the first quarter of 1955. Virus A is now appearing in South Africa and so events seem to be running in accordance with the recent pattern.

Measles here also has a two yearly cycle and is also due next winter. Notifications for Dartford Borough and Rural Districts received in months of November to April were:-

1949	50	2
1950	51	1,249
1951	52	5
1952	53	1,721
1953	54	0

Measles outbreaks embrace the whole of the first quarter of the year. Influenza usually reaches its peak about the first half of February and quadruples the sickness rate.

Thus I imagine that you are going to be busy in the first quarter of 1955 as I believe you were in the first quarter of 1953".

My reports to the July 1954 meetings of the Public Health Committees of Dartford Borough and Rural District stated that evidence was accumulating that the following winter's influenza was on its way.

Both measles and influenza may result in lung damage and Vitamin A is thought to be protective to the lung cells. The Borough have poster sites about the town each capable of taking three double crown posters and these I contemplated using in summer to exhort mothers to dose their children with cod liver oil to prepare for the coming winter's

measles and influenza. This publicity was not undertaken as such action seemed tainted with quackery.

The influenza did arrive and was with us by the end of January, but it was not of the nature, substance and quality of previous years as it was relatively mild and did not appreciably affect adult sickness benefit figures (which require at least three days absence) or numbers of deaths. It did, however, cause considerable inconvenience and it did markedly affect school children. Whether the Virus was A or B or both I don't know as it was not feasible to take blood samples and both viruses were present in the country at the time.

The anticipated measles arrived in January, a trifle behind schedule, but by the end of April 806 cases had been notified in Dartford Borough. It did not however reach its peak in the Rural District until the middle of the year. Measles usually travels round the Borough before going out to the Rural District, and the late start in the former delayed the appearance in the latter.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. These figures for 1955 were lower than the previous year. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following:

	Percentage of those born in 1953 immunised in 1953 or 1954	Percentage of those born in 1954 immunised in 1954 or 1955
Dartford Borough	73%	64%
Dartford Rural District	65%	60%
Kent A. C.	62%	59%

Percentage of births of those immunised at age of
under 1 year

	1954	1955
Dartford Borough	58	44
Dartford Rural District	44	39
Kent A.C.	42	43
England & Wales	37	37

Percentage of children under 15 years of age immunised in 5 years ending ~

	December 31st, 1954	December 31st, 1955
Dartford Borough	50%	50%
Dartford Rural District	42%	43%
Kent A. C.	51%	52%
Ministry's aim	75%	75%

1955 was the eighth year in succession in which no diphtheria occurred in Dartford Borough.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following figures: ~

	Percentage of those born in 1953 vaccinated in 1953 or 1954	Percentage of those born in 1954 vaccinated in 1954 or 1955
Dartford Borough	64	58
Dartford Rural District	50	59
Kent A. C.	60	61

	Percentage of births of those vaccinated in 1954 at age under 1 year	Percentage of births of those vaccinated in 1955 at age under 1 year
Dartford Borough	64	53
Dartford Rural District	53	53
Kent A.C.	60	61
England & Wales	35	36

Re-vaccination. The number of children due each year for re-vaccination in school life (assuming only one re-vaccination during that period) is roughly the number of infant vaccinations done five years previously. The percentage of this number re-vaccinated is shown by the following calculations:-

Infant vaccinations done in 1950	Children aged 5-14 re-vaccinated	*Percentage of possible number of those re-vaccinated
Dartford Borough	374	4
Dartford Rural District	255	11
Kent A.C.	13, 237	932
England & Wales	169, 766	11936

* These percentages contain approximations and errors which when corrected would result in lower figures.

In my report for 1954 I drew attention to the unsatisfactory position regarding the small amount of re-vaccination of school children in Dartford Borough and, as will be seen from the above figures, the position in 1955 was no better.

Within the boundaries of this Borough is a smallpox hospital (170 beds, 50 of which are staffed) to receive cases from this part of England at short notice. The unsatisfactory state of immunity in our population may cause needless risk should smallpox have to be cared for in this hospital.

Re-vaccination of school children within two or three years of first entering school should be regarded as a necessity here on account of this local factor.

Smallpox Contacts. One contact of a case of smallpox from S S Chusan was under surveillance.

ACCIDENTS, NEGLIGENCE, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE.

A true accident is really a happening which is unpredictable and beyond our powers of prevention and in a report such as this such accidents would have merely statistical value as a measurement of this cause of injury or death.

The accidents however which find their way into our figures are largely the result of negligence and are behaviour problems with environment as a significant second factor. Accidents due to negligence are a measure of the lack of regard held by sections of the community to human health and this measure of attitude is one which cannot be ignored when analysing the public conscience regarding health measures. Is not a public complacent about child deaths on the road also to be regarded as complacent about children being maimed by disease?

Motor vehicle accidents are studied by the road safety committee and will not be discussed here. 4 of the 5 deaths occurred to pedestrians - I have no figures of survivors who were maimed.

Accidents in the home. One death occurred from this cause, an unfortunate woman aged 70 who fell downstairs. Accidents in the home are a cause of illhealth about which in other areas Medical Officers of Health have initiated the formation of Home Safety Committees. I have refrained from doing this here as I believe those persons whose behaviour results in preventable accidents to be inaccessible to action by a committee.

The line of action which seems applicable consists of measuring the size of the problem and then if the figures justify it we can consider permissive inspection of the home done to a background of inexpensive propaganda. But this deals only with the environmental factor and still leaves untouched the behaviour problem of negligence, the solution to which lies in the field of mental health. This we are not equipped to explore - when the Borough can find a solution to the wanton damage to its own property perhaps it will be qualified to deal with this side of the accident problem.

So far our figures for home accidents are not as disturbing as elsewhere. The Dartford Hospital Management Committee have kindly provided me with details of those who have received in-patient treatment arising out of accidents in the home in 1955, these are:-

Age	Falls	Burns and scalds	Poisoning	Other	Total
0 - 4	4	4	2	3	13
5 - 64	4	3	2	9	18
65 +	7	-	-	-	7
	15	7*	4	12	38

* 6 scalds and 1 burn

Compared with this total of 38 there were only 17 admitted from Dartford Rural District, which has the same population.

Suicide. The figures showed an increase on previous years which may be worth noticing. All, except one aged 24 in the household of the homicide cases mentioned below, occurred in middle aged persons.

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
3	-	3	6	9

Homicide. The deaths were of twin children

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I wish to thank the chairman and members of the public health committee for their interest, the staff of this department for their willing co-operation and a number of colleagues for providing information for this report.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN H. HUDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX I

Social and Environmental Conditions

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar General's estimated mid-year home population)	
1955	40,490
Population (Census 1931)	28,928
Population (Census 1951)	40,544
Number of inhabited houses (1.4.56, according to Rate Books)	12,095
Rateable value (Year ended 31.3.56)	£364,510
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,345

The 1955 comparability factor for births governed by the proportion of women aged 18 to 44 years is 0.96. The factor for deaths governed by the proportion of all age groups, is 0.98. Considering the fact that all deaths occurring at Bexley Mental Hospital are now allotted to Dartford Borough, it seems that our comparability factor and consequently our adjusted death rate is too high.

The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with any other local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

No great change has occurred in the social conditions since an attempt was made to describe them in the report for 1950. The following figures may act as indicators for 1955:-

Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C.

Neglect	19
Ill treatment	1
Children affected	62
Prosecution for neglect	-

Unemployed on December 31st, 1955 (Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural)	Men	76
	Women	59

Illegitimate birth rate 1955, Dartford Borough 41 per 1,000 live births
 Illegitimate birth rate 1955, England and Wales 45 per 1,000 live births

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Water - The dwellings of the Borough are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board from wells in the chalk. In 1955 the monthly reports received from the Metropolitan Water Board showed almost 100% of the numerous samples from Kent District wells to yield first class bacteriological results (no typical Bact. coli in 100 ml.). Four samples taken on consumers premises by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors showed similar results.

In addition to the above there are buildings receiving other supplies and these were sampled as follows:-

- (a) Two hospitals which receive supplies from their own wells. Four quarterly samples taken in 1955 from one of these gave satisfactory results, nine samples taken from the other, with one exception gave satisfactory results.
- (b) Two paper mills each supplied by their own wells, one having several wells. One chemical sample taken and three bacteriological samples gave satisfactory results.

- (c) An engineering works supplied by three wells. A bacteriological sample was taken from each well and found satisfactory.
- (d) A chemical works with two wells. From these one bacteriological sample was taken and gave a satisfactory result.
- (e) A farm supplied by its own well. No samples were taken.

Water supplies should be judged with the help of an intimate personal knowledge of their history nature and environment. It may be noticed that I am attempting to outline the above supplies from analytical reports alone and this, I confess, is not ideal.

Housing - An account of the action taken to obtain the repair, improvement or demolition of existing dwellings will be found in the report of the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The following dwellings have been completed in the last six years:-

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
By Corporation	201	155	250	289	199	184
By Private Enterprise	29	19	43	49	83	200
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	230	174	293	338	282	384

No. of improvement grants made in 1955 20

The dwellings let by the Corporation in 1955 were as follows:-

Two bedroom houses	113
Three bedroom houses	56
One bedroom flats	-
Two bedroom flats	-
Three bedroom flats	-
Old peoples bungalows	7
	<hr/>
	176

Number of applicants on waiting list at the end of December, 1954 - 1,483
 Number of applicants on waiting list at the end of December, 1955 - 1,153

Atmospheric Pollution - See reports of Thames-Side Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution.

Milk - All the milk sold in the area in 1955 was designated.

APPENDIX II

Tables

(i) VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	291	266	557
Illegitimate	13	11	24
	304	277	579

Crude Live birth rate per 1,000 home population 14.3
 Birth Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor 13.7
 Crude birth rate, England and Wales 15.0

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate			0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			20.2
Still birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births			23.2

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Males	Females	Total
Dartford Town	217	184	401
Bexley Mental Hospital	52	106	158
Dartford Borough	269	290	559
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population			
Dartford Town - population 38,220			10.5
Bexley Mental Hospital - population 2,270			69.5
Dartford Borough - population 40,490			13.8
Death rate, Dartford Borough - adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor			13.6
Death rate, England and Wales			11.7

DEATHS FROM PUPERAL CAUSES

Death rate per 1,000 live and still births - Dartford Borough	0.0
Death rate per 1,000 live and still births - England and Wales	0.64

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Age	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks - legitimate	3	3	6
Under 4 weeks - illegitimate	2	2	4
4 weeks to 1 year	2	2	4
	7	5	12

Death rate per 1,000 live births, Dartford Borough	20.6
Death rate per 1,000 live births, London South-Eastern Region	21.2
Death rate per 1,000 live births, England and Wales	24.9
Death rate per 1,000 live births, Harrow Municipal Borough	17.0
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age - Dartford Borough	13.8
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age - England and Wales	17.3

Causes of Death	Total	Age at Death
Prematurity	5	Two days and under.
Congenital malformation	7	Seven months and under.

(ii) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX

Registrar General's Return

	Male	Female	Persons
All causes	269	290	559
Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	0	7
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	10	15
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	2	17
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	13	13
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	6	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	20	45
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
 Diabetes	0	4	4
 Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	31	55
 Coronary disease, angina	55	33	88
Hypertension with heart disease	4	7	11
Other heart disease	39	51	90
Other circulatory disease	20	24	44
 Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	14	34	48
Bronchitis	19	9	28
Other diseases of respiratory system	6	3	9
 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	3	4	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	23	36
Motor vehicle accidents	5	0	5
All other accidents	4	2	6
Suicide	3	6	9
Homicide and operations of war	1	1	2

(iii) DARTFORD TOWN - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE

Compiled Locally

	Total	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks	to 1 year										75+
All Causes	400	8	4	1	6	2	4	3	12	32	69	102	157	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5									2	2	1		
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Syphilitic disease	1												1	
Diphtheria	—													
Whooping Cough	—													
Meningococcal infections	—													
Acute Poliomyelitis	1						1	—	—	—	—	—		
Measles	—													
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—													
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12										2	4	6	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15									5	7	3		
Malignant neoplasm, breast	7									3	1	2	1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	4								2	—	2			
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	41			1	1	—	—	2	4	5	17	11		
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3			1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1			
Diabetes	1											1		
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .	43							1	—	1	8	8	25	
Coronary disease, angina	71								2	7	22	20	20	
Hypertension with heart disease .. .	3									1	2			
Other heart disease	45					1	—	1	1	1	6	8	28	
Other circulatory disease	34							1	1	3	10	19		
Influenza	—													
Pneumonia	23			1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	16		
Bronchitis	26								1	1	4	4	16	
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2					1	—	—	—	—	1			
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .	3									1	—	1	1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	2			1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Nephritis, nephrosis	—													
Hyperplasia of prostate	1												1	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—													
Congenital malformations	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	31	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	8	11		
Motor vehicle accidents	5					1	—	1	—	2	1			
All other accidents	4							1	—	—	2	1		
Suicide	8						1	—	1	2	3	1		
Homicide and operations of war	2			2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

(iv) BEXLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING
TO AGE

Compiled Locally

	Total	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 to 2	2	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75+
All Causes	158												
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2												2
Tuberculosis, other													
Syphilitic disease	1												1
Diphtheria													
Whooping Cough													
Meningococcal Infections													
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Measles													
Other infective and parasitic diseases													
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2												1 1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2												1 1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	5												1 2 1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus													
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8												1 7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia													
Diabetes	2												1 1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13												3 2 8
Coronary disease, angina	15												2 2 5 6
Hypertension with heart disease	6												2 3 1
Other heart disease	44												2 1 1 12 28
Other circulatory disease	14												4 3 7
Influenza													
Pneumonia	29												1 6 8 14
Bronchitis	3												2 1
Other diseases of respiratory system	4												2 1 1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum													
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea													
Nephritis, nephrosis	1												1
Hyperplasia of prostate													
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion													
Congenital malformations													
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5												2 3
Motor vehicle accidents													
All other accidents	2												1 1
Suicide													
Homicide and operations of war													

(v) CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES 75 YEARS AND OVER

(Dartford Town)

	Total persons	MALE				FEMALE			
		75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94
All Causes	157	21	32	17	3	31	35	8	2
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	6	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	2	2	1	-	1	3	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	6	6	4	-	5	3	1	-
Coronary disease, angina	20	5	4	1	-	5	4	1	-
Other heart disease	28	-	4	2	2	6	10	2	2
Other circulatory disease	19	1	3	3	-	5	4	2	1
Pneumonia	16	3	3	4	-	2	2	1	-
Bronchitis	16	4	5	1	1	-	2	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	-	3	-	-	4	2	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

(Bexley Mental Hospital)

	Total persons	MALE				FEMALE			
		75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94
All Causes	69	11	5	5	1	18	15	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	-	-	-	-	4	2	2	-
Coronary disease, angina	6	2	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Hypertension with heart disease ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	28	5	3	2	1	8	3	5	1
Other circulatory disease	7	1	-	2	-	-	4	-	-
Pneumonia	14	1	-	-	-	2	6	4	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

(vi) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

Dartford Town

MALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	217	6	31	-	8	8	2	91	7	26	8	29	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	13	1	1	-	3	1	-	3	-	2	-	2	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	2	7	-	-	2	-	8	1	-	1	1	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	23	-	4	-	-	-	1	12	2	2	-	2	-
Coronary disease, angina	47	-	7	-	1	-	-	27	1	5	1	5	-
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other heart disease	16	-	4	-	-	1	-	7	-	1	-	3	-
Other circulatory disease	19	1	2	-	-	2	-	7	-	3	-	4	-
Pneumonia	15	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	4	-
Bronchitis	18	-	-	-	3	-	-	7	1	3	3	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	1	1	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	-
All other accidents	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Suicide	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

FEMALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	183	7	25	-	9	7	-	76	3	36	5	11	4
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	-	4	-	2	-	-	9	-	2	1	1	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	20	1	1	-	1	1	-	3	-	7	2	4	-
Coronary disease, angina	24	1	2	-	2	2	-	10	-	3	1	3	-
Hypertension with heart disease ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	29	2	3	-	1	1	-	10	1	10	-	-	1
Other circulatory disease	15	1	3	-	-	-	-	6	-	4	-	1	-
Pneumonia	8	-	2	-	1	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	1	-	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	2	4	-	1	-	-	10	-	4	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

(vii) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

Bexley Mental Hospital

MALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IID	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	52	1	6	—	—	3	—	21	—	5	3	11	2
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Coronary disease, angina	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	1	1
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other heart disease	18	—	1	—	—	1	—	11	—	1	2	2	—
Other circulatory disease	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Bronchitis	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of the respiratory system	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
FEMALES													
All causes	106	2	18	—	4	7	5	38	—	8	4	9	11
Syphilitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
Diabetes	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	—	2	—	1	1	1	4	—	2	—	1	—
Coronary disease, angina	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	2
Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other heart disease	26	—	7	—	2	2	1	8	—	1	2	—	3
Other circulatory disease	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	2	1
Pneumonia	26	1	4	—	1	2	2	11	—	1	—	1	3
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Nephritis, nephrosis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
All other accidents	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

(viii) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1955.

Disease	Totals	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45+
Scarlet Fever	34	—	3	2	24	3	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	57	5	11	16	23	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	27	2	1	—	2	—	3	2	17
Poliomyelitis — Paralytic ..	4	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
— Non-Paralytic ..	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Scabies	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Measles	1008	21	136	221	621	2	—	4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

In addition to the above the following cases were notified from institutions -

Puerperal Pyrexia - 8 Pneumonia - 2

The following non notifiable diseases were reported from the schools -

Chicken Pox	- 204	Ringworm	- 4
Rubella	- 8	Influenza	- 84
Impetigo	- 13	Conjunctivitis	- 1
Mumps	- 207	Tonsillitis	- 1
Conjunctivitis	- 2		

(b) Distribution of Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia 1955

MEASLES

	St. Albans	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	1	-	1	4	6
February	1	2	6	35	44
March	33	14	44	85	283
April	34	29	75	225	471
May	9	19	6	64	121
June	6	7	8	35	65
July	2	-	-	11	14
August	-	2	-	2	4
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FOR YEAR	84	69	135	136	407	177	1,008

SCARLET FEVER

January	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	1
February	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	1
March	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	1
April	..	..	..	-	1	-	1	2
May ..	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	1
June	..	..	..	1	2	1	1	7
July	..	..	..	-	4	1	2	8
August	..	..	..	1	-	2	1	4
September	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-
October	..	..	..	-	-	1	7	8
November	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	1
December	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FOR YEAR	-	-	-	2	6	4	9	34

WHOOPING COUGH

January	..	..	..	-	5	1	9	-	15
February	..	..	..	1	3	2	3	-	10
March	..	..	..	-	5	2	1	10	18
April	..	..	..	1	-	-	1	-	5
May ..	..	..	..	1	-	-	3	2	6
June	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	-	1
July	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	..	..	..	1	-	1	-	-	2
November	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FOR YEAR	3	14	4	-	5	-	29	2	57

PNEUMONIA

	St Alban s	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January			1			2	3
February				1		1	3
March				4			4
April					1	1	3
May ..			1				1
June						1	1
July			1	2		1	4
August							
September						1	1
October							
November						1	1
December ..			2		1	1	6
TOTAL FOR YEAR			5	7	2	8	27

(c) Tuberculosis

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year

	New Cases						Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .. 1		1								
1 .. 5		1								
5 .. 10		2	1							
10 .. 15		1								
15 .. 20		5	4			1				
20 .. 25		2	3							
25 .. 35		3	3		1	2				
35 .. 45		3			2				2	
45 .. 55		2	2						2	
55 .. 65		7	2						3	
65 and upwards		2								
TOTALS	29	15	3	3			7			

Twenty-five of the 50 cases of tuberculosis notified during 1955 and 3 cases notified previous to that year were removed to hospital or sanatorium for treatment

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to two of the deaths occurring during the year but in one the disease was only revealed by post mortem examination.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year

	Pulmonary		Non pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register at end of 1954	302	225	30	42	599
Number on Register at end of 1955	277	204	24	36	541

Number of children under 15 years of age vaccinated with B.C.G. — 72

Mass X-Ray

	Total Radiographed	*Cases considered tuberculous	%
1955			
Factories etc			
Men ..	3,477	10	0.29
Women ..	1,358	1	0.07
General Public			
Men ..	2,464	11	0.45
Women ..	3,062	11	0.36
	10,361	33	0.32

Mass X-Ray (Continued)

	Total Radiographed	*Cases considered tuberculous	%
1953			
Factories, etc.			
Men	2,796	15	0.5
Women	1,127	2	0.2
General Public			
Men	2,199	11	0.5
Women	3,193	16	0.5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,315	44	0.47
1952			
Factories, etc.			
Men	2,522	8	0.3
Women	1,184	2	0.2
County Grammar School			
Girls	339	1	0.3
Teachers	14	0	0.0
General Public			
Men	2,755	24	0.9
Women	3,798	15	0.4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,612	50	0.47
1950			
Factories, etc.			
Men	3,409	35	1.0
Women	1,708	18	1.1
School Children			
Boys	380	1	0.3
Girls	282	1	0.4
General Public			
Men	1,268	11	0.9
Women	2,712	27	1.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,759	93	0.95

* The form of report received from the Mass Radiography Unit has changed on each of the four visits. The cases recorded here are new cases for 1950 and 1952 and all cases in 1953 and 1955.

(ix) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

From figures supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived

INOCULATIONS DONE EACH YEAR

	Age at 31st December	Primary Inoculations done in the year	Re-inforcing Inoculations done in the year
1955	0 - 4 years	384	42
	5 - 14 years	53	412
1954	0 - 4 years	501	66
	5 - 14 years	38	347
1953	0 - 4 years	397	63
	5 - 14 years	46	346
1952	0 - 4 years	542	82
	5 - 14 years	64	493
1951	0 - 4 years	454	70
	5 - 14 years	106	545
1950	0 - 4 years	523	30
	5 - 14 years	77	230

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH EFFECTIVE IMMUNITY

Immunisation is effective for about five years and then requires to be re-inforced. Hence:-

December 31st	Age Group	Children immunised at any time in their life	Children immunised in the last 5 years	Population Census 1951	Percentage children immune
1955	0 - 4 years	1,769	1,769	3,414*	52%) 50%
	5 - 14 years	4,352	2,642	5,416	48%) 50%
1954	0 - 4 years	1,882	1,882	3,414*	55%) 50%
	5 - 14 years	3,975	2,517	5,416	46%) 50%
1953	0 - 4 years	1,906	1,906	3,414*	56%) 59%
	5 - 14 years	4,947	3,335	5,416	62%) 59%

* Owing to lower birth rates population of age group 0 - 4 years probably less now, and, therefore, percentages are more than 55% and 56%

INFANT IMMUNISATION RATE

Percentage of those born in a given year who were immunised in that year of the next:

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year immunised	Number immunised	%	Total	%
1955	581	1955	55	9	?	?
		1956	?	?		
1954	579	1954	69	12	369	64
		1955	300	52		
1953	591	1953	53	9	433	73
		1954	380	64		
1952	533	1952	84	16	388	73
		1953	304	57		
1951	562	1951	49	9	424	75
		1952	375	66		
1950	594	1950	66	11	423	71
		1951	357	60		

Immunisation by age at date of immunisation:

	Number of live births	Number under 1 year of age immunised	Percentage of births of 1953 of those immunised under 1 year of age in 1954
1955	581	256	44
1954	579	342	58
1953	591	?	?

(x) SMALLPOX VACCINATION

NUMBERS VACCINATED

Age at December 31st			
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1955			
Vaccinated	195	124	17
Revaccinated	1	1	4
1954			
Vaccinated	224	159	15
Revaccinated	1	1	27
1953			
Vaccinated	229	110	4
Revaccinated	-	3	10
1952			
Vaccinated	250	125	12
Revaccinated	-	3	12
1951			
Vaccinated	255	140	46
Revaccinated	-	3	21
1950			
Vaccinated	231	143	22
Revaccinated	-	2	11

INFANT VACCINATION RATE

Percentage of those born in a given year who were vaccinated in that year or the next

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year vaccinated	Number vaccinated	%	Total	%
1955	381	1955	195	33	?	?
		1956	?	?		
1954	579	1954	224	39	340	58
		1955	116	20		
1953	591	1953	229	39	380	64
		1954	151	25		
1952	533	1952	250	47	350	66
		1953	100	19		
1951	562	1951	255	45	370	66
		1952	115	20		

VACCINATION BY AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION

Number of live births	Number vaccinated by age at date of vaccination			Percentage of births of those vaccinated under one year	
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14		
1955	581	309	12	16	53%
1954	579	369	13	5	64%
1953	591	326	15	1	55%
1952	533	359	21	10	67%

The detailed analysis of 1955 vaccinations is as follows:-

Age Group	Vaccinated		Revaccinated	
	Private Doctors	Clinics	Private Doctors	Clinics
Under 1	117	192	-	-
1 - 4	8	5	1	-
4 - 14	-	16	5	-
Total under 15	125	213	6	-

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

TO THE MAYOR ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

YOUR WORSHIP LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, which includes a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during 1955.

STAFF

For more than six months of the year the staff consisted of the Chief Public Health Inspector and one additional Inspector compared with an establishment of a Chief Inspector and three additional Inspectors. Fortunately it was possible to fill the vacancy for a pupil Sanitary Inspector during the year.

INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Complaints and Routine Visits in Connection with Nuisances

The following is a summary of the complaints entered in the Complaint Book during the year -

Complaints re accumulations etc.	9
Complaints re food	10
Drains cleared by Public Health Department	225
Drains cleared by Owners	25
Matters requiring execution of works	190
Complaints re dustbins	66
Overcrowding	4
Bugs	12
Woodworm	9
Wasps	3
Fleas	2
Other insects	9
Miscellaneous	26
No nuisance found	68
	658

DUSTBINS

The policy of the Council in the event of no dustbin being provided by either the owner or occupier is to provide a bin and recover a sum of 5s. 0d. with the rates on the 1st April. One hundred and thirteen bins were provided during the year.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

During the course of the year 13 premises were treated for bugs, 12 for woodworm,

3 for wasps, 1 for fleas and 3 for other miscellaneous insects. A liquid spray containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used for normal disinfection. Wasps nests are treated with Magnesium Cyanide. A charge of 5s. 0d. is made in respect of treatment for wasps, wood-worm, ants, etc.

TABLE OF NUISANCES REMEDIED AND REPAIRS EFFECTED

Accumulations of refuse removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Accumulations of manure removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Animals - Nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Brickwork	(a) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
	(b) repointed or rendered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Ceilings	(a) Cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(b) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Cesspools	(a) emptied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	(b) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Coppers repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Doors - frames or fittings repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Drains	(a) cleared by service of notice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
	(b) cleared by Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225
	(c) reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
	(d) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
	(e) gully fenders repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
	(f) inspection chambers provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	(g) inspection chambers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
	(h) vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Fireplaces	(a) grates provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(b) other repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Floors	(a) floorboards repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
	(b) floor joists repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	(c) sub floor ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(d) solid floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Roofs	(a) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
	(b) stripped and re roofed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
	(c) eaves gutters repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
	(d) down pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
• Sinks	(a) sinks renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
	(b) sink waste pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Stairs	(a) new treads or risers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	(b) handrails provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Walls	(a) cleansed and re-decorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	(b) plaster repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
	(c) dampness abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Water Supply	(a) taps, pipes, etc. repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
	(b) water storage tanks repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Windows	(a) frames, sashes or casements repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
	(b) glazing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	(c) sashcords etc. repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
W.C.'s	(a) flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
	(b) W.C. pans renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
	(c) W.C. seats repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Yard Paving	(a) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	(b) re drained	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous defects not included above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41

DRAINAGE WORK

Number of drains tested by water - new buildings and extensions	501
Number of drains tested by water - old drainage re-laid ..	.. 59
Other tests ..	.. 38
	—
	598

In all, 827 visits were made to drainage works for the purpose of drain testing or supervision. During the course of the year it was found that with the increase in new

building and the reduced staff available for inspections, it was not possible to carry out satisfactorily the inspection of new drainage work on premises in the course of construction and at the same time pay sufficient attention to other duties. Arrangements were, therefore, made for this duty to be undertaken by Building Inspectors in the Borough Surveyor's Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and investigations by Public Health Inspectors	..	141
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	.. .. .. ..	29
Premises disinfected (all other infections)	.. .. .. ..	1
Library books disinfected	.. .. .. .. ..	33

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Seventy six thirty minute observations of factory chimneys were made during the year and of this number the model byelaw limit of two minutes black smoke in any continuous period of thirty minutes was exceeded on 8 occasions.

Observations on atmospheric pollution by the use of standard deposit gauges and lead peroxide gauges are made at three sites in the Borough. Details in connection with the results of analyses of these deposits, together with those in adjacent local authority areas, will be found in the Annual Report of the Thames side Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

A site at Stonehill Woods, Joydens Wood, is licensed for twenty four chalet type bungalows and Town Planning approval has been given for the siting of ten trailer-type caravans upon this site. Ten such caravans have been granted individual licences and are being used for residential purposes.

Changes in the occupants of these residential caravans or caravan sites occur at fairly frequent intervals.

One horse drawn caravan has been granted an individual licence to stand on land at Bignores Farm Darent Road, and Town Planning approval has been granted for a limited period.

OVERCROWDING

There have been four complaints only of overcrowding during the year. Two of the premises concerned were not statutorily overcrowded, one was occupied as temporary accommodation by a family awaiting other accommodation and was only overcrowded for a brief period, whilst in the case of the other the overcrowding was abated on service of a statutory notice.

SWIMMING BATHS

The open air swimming bath in Burnham Road, which is under the administrative control of the Borough Surveyor, has a continuous heating and chlorination plant, the water being chlorinated so as to give a residual chlorine figure of 0.5 ppm. at the inlet.

High bacteriological counts and the presence of coliform organisms were reported in respect of one sample other samples were of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The swimming bath at the Dartford College of Physical Education is open during the

Summer months for certain school children and samples of the water are also submitted for bacteriological examination.

All samples taken were found to be of satisfactory quality.

HOUSING ACT

Information in connection with housing has already been provided in the quarterly Return to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on Form P.13 (Hsg.).

Briefly summarised this shows the demolition of 69 houses, the closing of 8 and the repair of 231.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

Twelve applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year, making a total of 21 since the coming into operation of the Act.

The issue of Certificates was refused in four cases.

Six Certificates have been revoked upon application and revocation has been refused in one instance.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Application for Improvement Grants have been received in respect of 23 properties, 16 of which were owner-occupied premises. Grants were made in respect of 20 properties.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratory examinations were carried out at the Public Health and County Analysts Laboratories at Maidstone and also at the Pathological Laboratories of the Dartford Group of Hospitals. The following specimens were submitted for examination ..

Public Health and County Analysts Laboratories

Water (Bacteriological)	..	..	..	..	..	15
Water (Chemical)	..	..	..	..	..	2
Milk (Bacteriological)	..	..	..	..	..	14
Food and Drug Samples	..	..	..	..	..	133
Ice Cream (Biochemical)	..	..	..	..	..	15

Laboratory of Dartford Group of Hospitals

Food for infection	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	..	36

ICE CREAM

Premises used for the sale of Ice Cream

Number of Dealers registered	..	..	..	..	..	86
Number of Manufacturers registered	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of samples taken for biochemical examination						15

Ice cream manufacture has taken place at only two premises during the year, the "hot mix" method being used at one of the premises and the "cold mix" at the other.

Results of examinations are set out below.

	Manufactured in District	Manufactured out side District
Grade I	..	7
Grade II	..	2
Grade III	..	1
Grade IV	..	2

Fifteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. The three manufactured outside the district had average fat and total solids contents of 12.3% and 38.8% respectively. A sample of cold mix ice cream manufactured within the district had figures of 9.6% and 31.0%, whilst samples of hot mix ice cream manufactured within the district had average figures of 5.9% and 28.27%.

The ice cream produced at the "hot mix" manufacture premises had been of most variable quality both chemically and biochemically for a considerable time. After a meeting at the manufacturer's premises, which was also attended by a representative of the Ice Cream Alliance and their Technical Advisors, considerable improvements were achieved, which have subsequently been well maintained.

MILK LICENCES ETC.

The following are details in connection with licences issued and premises in use in the area

SAMPLES

During the year nine samples of Pasteurised milk, three samples of Tuberculin Tested milk (Pasteurised) and two samples of Channel Island Milk (Pasteurised) were submitted to the County Analyst for routine examination.

With the exception of one sample of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk which failed to pass the methylene blue test, all samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough, but the following figures are

in respect of inspections of animals at a large hospital within the Council's area

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	None	13	32	None	704	None
Number inspected	None	13	32	None	704	None
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	None	None	None	None	1	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	1	None	None	8	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	None	7.7%	None	None	1.3%	None
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	4	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	None	None	None	None	0.6%	None
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	None	None	None	None	None	None
Generalised and totally condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None

OTHER INSPECTIONS

Apart from the figures included in other sections of the report the following visits were made during the year:-

Visits regarding food-borne infection	Nil
Visits to:-	
Fruit Pickers Huts	2
Offensive Trades	8
Public Conveniences at Inns	93
Other Public Conveniences	72
Slipper Baths	23
Stables Piggeries etc.	38
Tents Vans and Sneds	76
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress	1 510
Miscellaneous visits	436

In all, a total of 7,046 visits or inspections were made during the year. This figure compared with that for the preceding year, shows a reduction of roughly 3 000 visits which can be largely accounted for by the inadequate staff available during the year.

PUBLIC BATHS

PUBLIC CONVENiences AND SLIPPER BATHS

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following which are under the administrative control of the Chief Public Health Inspector:-

Public Conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent

Public Conveniences for both sexes in Market Street

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below together with comparative figures for 1953 1954 and 1955:-

	1953	1954	1955
Men	13,029	13,252	13,414
Boys	615	540	674
Women	4,317	3,926	3,780
Girls	283	233	275
TOTAL	18,244	17,951	18,143

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, ETC

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

The following table shows the number of food premises of various types in the Council's area and the number of visits of inspection or re-inspection paid to such premises during the year. All premises in which food is prepared or stored for sale for human consumption are inspected at least twice in every year. Some are inspected as a routine measure three times a year and some quarterly. The frequency of inspection varies according to the type of business carried on and the manner in which the particular business is conducted.

Where more than one trade or business is carried on in a particular shop e.g. grocers who also sell ice-cream or grocers who also sell a small amount of greengrocery the premises are classified according to the predominant trade and one inspection entry only is made in connection with visits to such multi-purpose shops.

	No of Premises	No of Inspections
Bakehouses	9	49
Butchers	26	184
Cafes and Restaurants	63	245
Confectioners	50	106
*Dairies	2	5
Fish Friers	10	45
Fish Mongers (not friers)	3	13
Greengrocers	28	139
Grocers	85	253
Ice Cream Premises (including Manufacturers)	96†	67
Licensed Premises (non-catering)	44	87
Other Food Premises	2	4
Knackers Yards	1	16
Slaughterhouses	1	78

* Although two premises are registered as dairies, one only is used as such and this only on rare occasions.

† This figure represents the number of premises registered, most of which are grocers or confectioners and inspections of which are recorded under those headings

REGISTERED PREMISES

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the following table indicates the number of premises registered and used for:

Sausage Making and Cooked Meats	33
Curing and Preservation of Fish	4
Ice Cream Manufacture and Sale	2
Ice Cream Storage and Sale	85

Visits to these premises are included in the figures tabulated above.

As a result of the foregoing inspections 80 Notices were served during the year and 82 Notices were complied with. The following table sets out the defects which were found:

Sanitary conveniences in Food Preparation Premises	Nil
Defective condition of walls and ceilings	13
Dirty condition of walls and ceilings	10
Defective condition of floors	5
Dirty condition of floors	21
Dirty condition of windows	2
Dirty equipment personnel or clothing	19
Inadequate hot water supply	10
Inadequate supply of soap or towels	9
Inadequate protection of food from sources of contamination	11
Animals likely to contaminate food in preparation rooms	2
Inadequate marking of vehicles used for sale of food	8
Miscellaneous defects	56

The supply of food hygiene posters to various classes of catering establishments has been continued during the year.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

During the year 133 samples were obtained (2 formal and 131 informal). The following table shows the results of the analyses of these samples.

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated
Almonds ground	1	1	—	—	—
Angelica	1	1	—	—	—
Apple Tart	1	—	—	1	—
Apricots dried	1	1	—	—	—
Arrowroot	1	1	—	—	—
Aspirin	1	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder	1	1	—	—	—
Bun	1	—	—	—	1
Butter	4	4	—	—	—
Cheese Spread with Ham	1	1	—	—	—
Cherries glace	1	1	—	—	—
Chicken chopped prime	1	1	—	—	—
Cinnamon	2	2	—	—	—
Cocoa	1	1	—	—	—
Coconut Dessicated	—	1	1	—	—
Coffee	—	1	1	—	—
Confectionery	—	—	—	—	—
Butter Crunch	—	1	1	—	—
Chocolate full cream milk	—	1	1	—	—
Chocolate milk	—	1	—	1	—
Milk Drops	—	1	—	1	—
Cornflour	—	2	2	—	—
Currants	—	1	1	—	—
Curry Powder	—	3	3	—	—
Custard Filling	—	1	1	—	—
Dates	—	1	1	—	—
Dripping Beef	—	1	1	—	—
Fish Paste - Lobster	—	1	1	—	—
Salmon and Shrimp	—	1	1	—	—
Flour - Self Raising	—	1	1	—	—
Fruit Mixed Dried	—	1	1	—	—
Gelatine	—	2	2	—	—
Ginger Ground	—	2	2	—	—
Ice Cream	—	15	12	3	—
Jam Red Plum	—	1	1	—	—
Jelly	—	1	1	—	—
Jelly Raspberry	—	1	1	—	—
Lard	—	1	1	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	1	—	—
Lemonade	—	1	1	—	—
Lemonade Crystals	—	1	1	—	—
Liquid Paraffin	—	1	1	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	—
Marmalade Orange	—	1	1	—	—
Milk	—	5	3	1	1
Milk (Pasteurised)	—	9	9	—	—
Milk Channel Islands (Pasteurised)	—	2	2	—	—
Milk Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	—	3	3	—	—
Mustard	—	1	1	—	—
Nutmeg Ground	—	2	2	—	—
Oranges Spanish	—	3	3	—	—
Pepper White	—	4	4	—	—
Pork Pie	—	1	—	1	—
Rice Ground	—	1	1	—	—
Saccharin	—	1	1	—	—
Salad Cream	—	1	1	—	—
Sausage	—	2	1	—	1
Sausage Beef	—	3	3	—	—
Sausage Pork	2	13	11	2	2
Sausage Rolls	—	2	2	—	—
Semolina	—	1	1	—	—
Soup Cream of Mushroom	—	1	1	—	—
Soup Cream of Tomato	—	1	1	—	—
Sugar Demerara	—	1	1	—	—
Sultanas	—	1	1	—	—
Tapioca	—	1	1	—	—
Tomato Paste	—	1	1	—	—
Tomato Ketchup	—	2	2	—	—
Vinegar Malt	—	2	2	—	—
TOTALS	2	131	118	10	5

The following are details in connection with the samples in the foregoing table which were reported as either 'inferior' or 'adulterated'.

Apple Tart:	(Informal) An apple tart was submitted by the purchaser of a pastry mix. The fat of the sample had developed oxidative rancidity to a degree rendering it unfit for food. Stocks of the pastry mix were withdrawn by the manufacturers.
Bun:	(Informal) The bun contained small black particles. The Analyst reported that the particles consisted of dirty dough and there was no evidence that they were rodent droppings or that they contained lubricating oil.
Milk Chocolate:	(Informal) A bar of milk Chocolate was found to contain larvae of the drug store beetle.
Milk Drops:	(Informal) They were reported by the Analyst to contain 27.5% fat, none of which was milk fat. The manufacturers agreed to change the name of the article to "white drops".
Ice Cream:	(Informal) One sample of ice cream was found to be slightly deficient in milk solids and two slightly deficient in fat; they were from the same source of supply and following a meeting with representatives of the Ice Cream Alliance to which reference has already been made earlier in this Report, subsequent samples were satisfactory.
Milk:	(Informal) One sample of milk was reported by the Public Analyst to be adulterated. The pint bottle of milk contained a dead mouse. There was no evidence that the mouse had been in the bottle during the cleansing process and no action was taken.
	Another sample consisting of a one-pint bottle of milk was reported as inferior, a large brown foreign body in the milk being found to be a mass of mould hyphae.
Pork Pie:	(Informal) A small amount of dirt was found in the pastry of a pork pie which was reported to be inferior.
Sausages:	(Informal) A sample of sausage submitted by the purchaser was found to contain glass and was reported as adulterated. This was part of a consignment of sausages manufactured out of the district and distributed to a number of Authorities in the South East Metropolitan area. Enquiries at the place of manufacture failed to reveal the origin of the glass.
Pork Sausage:	(Informal) One sample was reported to contain 270 parts per million sulphite which was not declared and was reported as inferior.
	One inferior sample contained only 52% of meat and was reported as adulterated. A formal sample taken subsequently was found to contain only 56% of meat. Proceedings were instituted and a fine of £5 with three guineas costs was imposed. An informal sample was reported to contain an excessive amount of fat and was reported as inferior. A formal sample taken subsequently was found to be satisfactory.
Complaints in connection with food	Apart from the complaints in connection with food that were followed up by the submission of samples to the Public Analyst and which have been dealt with in the foregoing paragraphs the following complaints were also received:
(1)	Galvanised staple found in sultanas. A visit was made to the premises from which the sultanas were supplied but no packing case utilising the same type of staple was found upon the premises.
(2)	A small portion of string was found in a pre-packed apple tart. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers who were unable to account for its presence.

(3) A cockroach was found in a meat pie manufactured in the Council's area. Investigations revealed a small infestation which was subsequently eradicated.

(4) A portion of roast pork was found to contain blow fly larvae and investigations at the retailers' premises discovered a small stock similarly affected which was surrendered as unfit for food.

(5) Mould was discovered in a pre-packed pork pie. Other pies at the retailers' premises were found to be satisfactory but the method of turnover of stock was not such as to ensure the possibility that stock was sold in the order in which it was received.

UNSAFE FOOD

The total quantity of unsafe food dealt with during the year was 1 ton. 1 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs 7ozs. Details of the foods surrendered are tabulated below...

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs	Ozs.
--	------	------	-----	-----	------

FISH

Golden Fillets			14		-
Haddock			42		-
Plaice			42		-
Skate			210		

MEAT POULTRY ETC

Beef English			141		-
Beef Imported			131		-
Poultry - Chicken			106		-
Sausage Beef			32		-
Lamb and Mutton			21		-
Kidneys			52		8
Lambs Livers			30		-
Ham			5		12
3 Pigs Plucks			4		8
2 Pigs Hearts			1		8
1 Pigs Liver			3		0

MISCELLANEOUS GROCERIES

Condiments 2 bottles			12		-
Meat Paste 1 jar			4		-
Cheese Spread - 25 packets			3		2
Cheese waste			20		-
Suet			3		4
Syrup			21		-
Layer Cake			40		-
Semolina			56		-

TINNED GOODS

Fish 24 tins	Fruit 165 tins)			
Jam 7 tins	Meat 267 tins	(milk)			
27 tins	Soup 5 tins	Spaghetti)			
1 tin	Vegetables 176 tins)			

	12	3	8	15
TOTAL	1	1	2	9

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a summary of inspections carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act:-

(1) INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities . . .	16	35	2	None
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . . .	142	292	21	None
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises) . . .	26	48	4	None
	<hr/> 184	<hr/> 375	<hr/> 27	<hr/> None

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S 1) . . .	12	12	None	None	None
Overcrowding (S 2) . . .	None	None	None	None	None
Unreasonable temperature (S 3) . . .	None	None	None	None	None
Inadequate Ventilation (S 4) . . .	None	None	None	None	None
Ineffective drainage of floors (S 6) . . .	None	None	None	None	None
Sanitary Conveniences (S 7)					
(a) Insufficient . . .	6	6	None	None	None
(b) Unsuitable or defective . . .	16	15	None	None	None
(c) Not separate for sexes . . .	None	None	None	None	None
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) . . .	7	7	None	None	None
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 40	<hr/> None	<hr/> None	<hr/> None

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Staff shortages again resulted in only a very small amount of time being devoted to survey of domestic premises during the year.

Details of the number of complaints received compared with those in previous years are set out below:-

	1953	1954	1955
Number of complaints received and dealt with . . .	195	210	147
Number of premises treated . . .	213	249	206
Notices served . . .	5	7	6
Notices complied with . . .	5	7	6

Many of the complaints related to infestations by mice

Once again no treatment of the sewers was carried out and very few surface infestations were found in which there appeared to be any connection with the presence of rats in the sewers.

SHOPS ACT. 1950

Set out below are details of the number of inspections made and notices served and complied with during the year

Number of inspections made	285
Notices served	40
Notices complied with	32

Analysis of Notices complied with in 1955 ~

Abstracts	22
Sanitary accommodation defective	—
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	1
Inadequate temperature	8
Half-day or Sunday closing offences	—
Offences relating to intervals for meals etc.	—
Inadequate washing facilities	—
No seats for female assistants	1

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings were instituted in respect of a contravention of Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 arising out of the sale of pork sausages of inadequate meat content. A fine of £5 and £3 3s 0d costs was imposed

I am Sir Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant

T H IDDISON

Chief Public Health Inspector.